

GOVERNOR'S **ADVISORY** COUNCIL ON AGING

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OVERVIEW

The year 2000-2001 was a year of change for the Council. The staff was significantly changing, yet the work and functions continued. The turnover affected staff at all levels.

Anne Lindeman retired as Executive Director in July of 2000, after eight years of service. Anne will be remembered for leadership and compassion. The Council programs grew under her leadership and she was a force in legislative issues. Her legacy with the Council will continue with the formation of the Anne Lindeman Scholarship.

Lupe Solis was appointed Acting Executive Director, and again proved her ability to provide strong guidance. Lupe's knowledge of the aging network and senior issues was unparalleled due to her 20 years of work with the Council. She coordinated advocacy efforts, education, and Council programs. Lupe retired from state government in April of 2001 after 27 years of service. Her concern for the seniors in Arizona and her lasting impact on quality of life issues will continue to inspire the Council.

Barry Gold was appointed Executive Director in May of 2001. He has worked with the Council for many years in a variety of areas. He worked closely in designing and implementing many of their major events, as well as being involved with educational and legislative issues. He has extensive contacts in the aging network and understands how the Council interacts with the community, agencies, and government.

There has been turnover of other Council staff. The project specialist and administrative secretaries left to pursue other goals. New staff in place have proved they are up to the challenge of running an office with varied demands and involvement in so many areas. Some processes and procedures have been updated, and the office is ready to continue business.

Mission & Vision

The Council rewrote their mission and vision statements to reflect changes in the aging network, and how they could have greater impact. The Council carries out its mission through the programs, activities, and events in this report.

Mission

To advocate for enhancement of quality of life for seniors in Arizona.

Vision

To be recognized as the leading advocate impacting public policy issues and program development for seniors in Arizona.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Senior Action Day was held in Wesley Bolin Plaza on March 1st, 2001. There were approximately 1500 in attendance from around the state. There were a record number of legislative districts represented. Legislators from 29 of the 30 districts had someone attend to talk to their constituents. Fifty-five legislators came and had lunch with constituents from their districts.

The Governor welcomed the crowd, which enthusiastically responded to her comments. Senate President Randall Gnant also addressed the crowd. Former State Representative Art Hamilton spoke to the crowd about the importance of senior advocacy. There were displays from more than 50 organizations and agencies involved with seniors and the community. Information on a variety of services, programs, and issues were available to the crowd. There were free ice cream cones for everyone to enjoy on a beautiful sunny Arizona day, which concentrated on education, advocacy, and involvement to improve senior's lives.

The Grandparents Initiative continues to develop with the final editing of the training manual. The support group network, the partnership with Center DOAR, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, and other community agencies, is strengthening and growing in numbers and areas being served. The train-the-trainer manual to assist communities in starting their own support groups is almost ready to print. It will be piloted in a few selected communities. The object is to allow an interested party in a

community to use the manual as a guide to develop a support network and resource guide specific to their location. The second Grandparents University was held in October 2001, with the Council being instrumental in the planning and the program.

The Tucson Grandparents Coalition continues to explore innovative solutions and communication methods. They will be opening a one-stop resource center with space donated from DES. The Council staff attends all their meetings and helped create the name for the new center (KARE Center: Kinship – Adoption Resources and Education Center).

New support groups are being developed in several areas of the state. The Council is working with DES Intergovernmental Liaison to look into a state summit for departments involved in kinship care. There will be a statewide meeting of the different coalitions and task forces at the Governor's Conference on Aging in May 2002.

The Older Workers Resource Task Force was started in cooperation with many community agencies to address the needs of older workers in the labor market. Joining the Council are AARP, Frys Foods, Bank One, Aging and Adult Administration, Department of Commerce, Maricopa Community College, Area Agencies on Aging and others to look at the needs of older workers, employers, and how to provide employment in a supportive environment. The Task Force will be starting a web site to provide information and resources for older workers and employers. They are also planning

focus groups to gain insight into the needs and attitudes of both groups. The Task Force has been featured on the Senior Focus television program on KUSK-TV, and has been asked to return to give a progress report. They are planning to expand their efforts statewide with meetings in southern and northern Arizona.

The Anne Lindeman Scholarship was created to honor the service and commitment she gave to the state of Arizona. The scholarship is in partnership with Southwest Student Services. There will be three \$1000 scholarships awarded yearly for students in education or gerontology programs. One of the scholarships will be awarded to an ASU-West student; in recognition of Anne's contribution to the creation of that campus while she was in the legislature.

Arizona Teen Connect will be a new Council program providing intergenerational contact between high school students and seniors living independently or in assisted living. Students earn community service credit required for graduation by calling seniors and providing contact and relieving isolation. The program will be started with an Honors High School program in Phoenix in conjunction with a Continuum of Care Facility. Plans are also being made to start the program in outlying cities across the state. The Council has trademarked the name Arizona Teen Connect. It is based on a program developed by a student in Florida, Alfred Ciffo III, and has spread across Florida. He has given the Council permission to trademark the name for use in Arizona.

The Governor's Conference on Aging 2002

planning has begun. The conference will be in Tucson on May 14-16, 2002. It has not been in Tucson for ten years, and the local community is excited to host and help plan the event. The conference is titled "Active Aging: Opportunities and Challenges", and will include a variety of topics. Several agencies have expressed interest in presenting pre-conference intensives and other sessions.

ADVOCACY

The Council continued its advocacy efforts in legislation regarding senior issues. Home and Community Based Services, the Council's number one priority, did receive a 1.68 million-dollar increase that was not subject to a budget trigger.

SB 1125 Suicide Prevention Program; passed and established an appropriation to fund a Department of Health Services program.

SB 1118 Prescription Drug Coverage; passed and provides Medicare beneficiaries who meet certain qualifications some prescription subsidies.

SB 1196 Long Term Care Inter-Agency Council; passed and established an Inter-Agency Council to recommend ways to develop and implement a coordinated long term care service delivery system.

SB 1299 AHCCCS Alzheimer's Pilot Project; passed and extends and expands the current AHCCCS Alzheimer's assisted living residential pilot project to 2005.

HB 2485 Appropriations; Tribal Senior Centers; passed and provides appropriation for construction of specific senior centers in the Navajo Nation and Hopi reservation.

HB 2595 Appropriation, Alzheimer's Disease Research; passed and provides funding for Alzheimer's Disease research and Parkinson's research.

The Council also supported or opposed other bills. Some of the issues included foster care payments to grandparents, grandparents visitation rights, referral agency regulation, gate openers, behavioral health and aging, and driver license renewals.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Conference Development remains a priority for the Council. Several key conferences included Council staff in areas of planning and presentation. Grandparents University, AIAP Intergenerational Conference, Southwest Society on Aging, Inter-Tribal Conference on Aging, Flagstaff National Health and Senior Fitness Day are among some of the events in which staff has participated.

Public Hearings were conducted over the summer of 2000, with the Aging and Adult Administration, to present the three year plan on aging. The hearings provided a forum to discuss the plan across the state, and hear community comments. The hearings also afforded a way to gather information about other important issues regarding aging.

Focus groups were conducted in Kykotsmovi concerning grandparents issues. This information will be used in the networking initiative to provide support groups and resources.

Coalitions, Task Forces, Committees and Advisory Boards remain a major avenue to spreading information and impacting the aging network and senior community. The Council staff is involved with the Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition, Healthy People 2010, Statewide Elder Abuse Task Force, Healthy Women for a Lifetime, Arizona Osteoporosis Coalition, State Medicare Advisory Committee, HealthNet Advisory Board, East Valley Legislative Committee, Older Americans Month Committee, Older Womens League, Phoenix College Assisted Living Committee,

Developmentally Disabled and Aging Workgroup, Maricopa Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Grandparents Task Force, Tucson Grandparents Coalition, Older Workers Resource Task Force, and other groups.

Public speaking and events are another way the Council provides education and encourages networking in the community. Connecting resources and sharing information allows seniors, families, providers, agencies, and policy makers the opportunity to determine simple methods and best practices to meet needs. The Council has been represented at numerous health fairs, seminars, conferences, and other public events. We have spoken on issues ranging from caregiving, Alzheimer's Disease, advocacy, lifelong learning, and many others. Council staff have guest lectured for ASU, ASU-West, ASMAT, and Maricopa Community Colleges. Public speaking to civic groups, care facilities, health programs, and senior centers is an important way to touch the community.

AWARDS

Arizona Senior Fitness 2000 received a National Mature Media Award. The award was given for a Total Consumer Education Program in the government division. It was the only award given for that category in the government division.



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